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# THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE  
SENATE PRESS OFFICE

*SEPTEMBER IN  
GEORGIA HISTORY*

REMEMBERING  
FORMER FIRST  
LADY SANDRA  
DEAL

A TRIBUTE TO RAFB  
CELEBRATING OVER  
80 YEARS OF SERVICE

GEORGIA AND THE  
**U.S. CONSTITUTION**

CONSTITUTION DAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

ON THE COVER  
ABRAHAM BALDWIN

# THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRER

A Monthly Newsletter by The Senate Press Office



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Cover Photo of Abraham Baldwin Statue in  
the Georgia Capitol Museum  
Photo Credit: Keenan Rogers

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# Georgia's Founding Fathers

## GEORGIA'S ROLE IN THE SHAPING OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

By Andrew Allison, Director

Each year, on September 16, known as Constitution Day, visitors to the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah visit in droves and crowd around a display containing an, at first glance, unassuming collection of old papers. The parchment itself is noteworthy, to be sure. However, it is the annotations in the margins that truly make this document one of a kind.

These papers belonged to one of Georgia's two signers of the United States Constitution, Abraham Baldwin, and represent one of the few remaining original drafts of the United States Constitution in existence today. His handwritten notes aside the text grant historians, researchers, or anyone with a curiosity for history an inside view of the mind of one of Georgia's Founding Fathers at a pivotal time in American history.

When the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was called, prominent leaders in communities across the country were called to Philadelphia. Many of the most notable names in American history were in attendance including George Washington (who presided over the Convention), Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison who, along with 51 others, met for several months throughout the summer of 1787 to establish the federal governmental framework of our infant nation. Georgia elected five men in total to the Convention to represent the interest of communities across the state.

Of those five, only four attended the convention and only two remained through the entire debate and signed the final document on September 17, 1787. The road to compromise was not easy, however, and the Georgia delegation played an integral role in shaping the Constitution and establishing a federal structure that remains in place to this day.

One debate Baldwin lent his attention to occurred early in the Convention. A bitter debate was raging, mostly between the northern and southern states, over how state population should factor into federal representation. Most larger states in the south maintained a smaller, though steadily growing, population as compared to the smaller sized states in the north. Wary of enabling the south with a greater ability to steer national legislative issues with a greater number of elected representatives, the north sought a solution to give all states equal representation, rather than based on population.

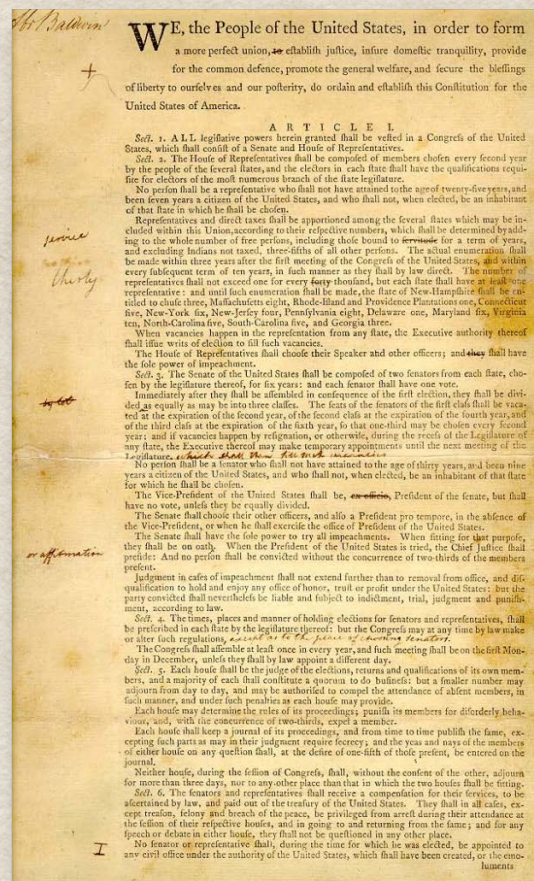
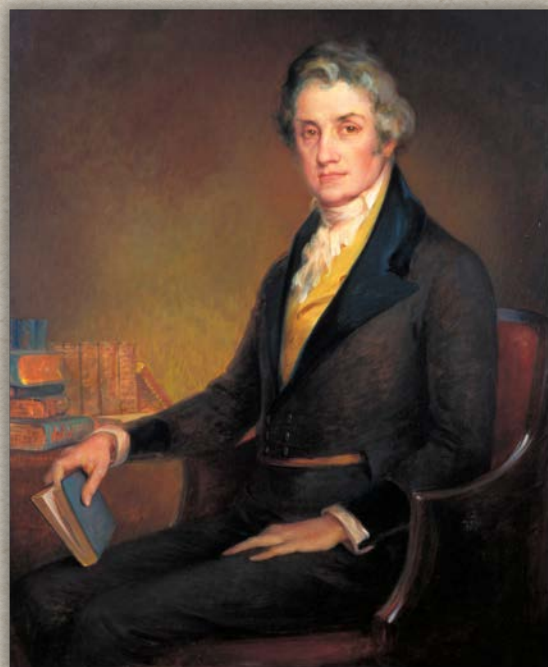


Photo Courtesy of The United States National Archives



Abraham Baldwin  
Photo Courtesy of ABAC



Georgia was a state well-positioned than most for growth. Its boundaries continued to inch westward towards the Mississippi River as more and more lands were ceded and its population continued to rise due to its strategic ports along the coastline and a climate suitable for a wide range of agricultural operations. Due to Georgia's potential to grow to a drastically higher population than the smaller northern states, concerns were raised at the Constitutional Convention over these states having an outsized voice in shaping national legislative issues.

The two governmental structures under consideration were known as the "Virginia Plan" and the "New Jersey Plan", which favored the large states and the small states, respectively. Under the Virginia Plan, a bicameral legislature would be established with each state being represented proportionally by population in a lower chamber and upper chamber.

The New Jersey Plan, on the other hand, proposed a unicameral structure under which every state would be represented equally. With many delegations unwilling to compromise, uncertainty abounded over whether the idea to form a constitution could be defeated before any real progress was made. Abraham Baldwin knew his vote would be a pivotal one, as the states began to lock in firmly to their positions, potentially leading to a deadlocked convention. As the time for a vote inched closer, Baldwin cast his deciding vote in favor of the smaller states, splitting the vote and thereby ensuring that debate over the constitution would continue and a solution could be reached.

To resolve the matter, a "Grand Committee" was appointed so members from each state could come to an agreement and negotiate a compromise between the two competing plans. Baldwin was selected to represent Georgia in the Grand Committee and immediately encountered a crisis of philosophy. Baldwin, himself, was said to be selected for the committee due to his only living in Georgia for a brief time and originally hailing from Connecticut, a small northern state whose delegation was hard at work finding an agreement between the states. He could either support the Connecticut delegation and approve what came to be known as the "Great Compromise" or "Connecticut Compromise" and risk potentially alienating his constituency, or risk a perhaps even greater result of contributing to the failure of the convention to reach a consensus on a constitution.

By mid-September, a compromise was thought to be struck. Members of the Grand Committee, Abraham Baldwin included, had coalesced behind a proposal known as the "Connecticut Compromise." Under this plan, a bicameral legislative structure would be established, with one chamber (the House of Representatives) being composed of members elected proportionally to population) and an upper chamber (the Senate) to afford two representatives each from each state, regardless of population. After some final fine-tuning, this proposal was included in the final framework of the Constitution, which was formally adopted by the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787.

While we recognize September 17 as Constitution Day and recognize it as the day the Congress formally accepted the



William Few

Photo Courtesy of the Digital Library of Georgia



Constitution, it was not until months later that the states ratified the document. On January 2, 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the Constitution, after Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. However, by the summer of 1788 the fate of the constitution appeared to be in question. Abraham Baldwin later reflected that, “where we are to go for the ninth [state to ratify the constitution] to set all the mighty wheels in motion time must determine. I fear it will be delayed too long.” Eventually, by June of 1788, New Hampshire had cast the deciding vote and adopted the constitution, officially enshrining it as our founding national document.

While Baldwin was widely viewed as the leader of the Georgia delegation, as evidenced by his appointment to some of the more influential committees during the convention. However, Georgia had one other delegate who remained for the duration of the convention and signed the final document in 1787. William Few was born in northern Maryland and he, along with his family, sustained a meager living planting tobacco. Throughout the 1770’s, Few’s family rose to greater prominence. However, after his brother’s participation in a violent uprising and his subsequent execution, most of Few’s family moved to Wrightsville, Georgia. Few remained in Maryland to maintain the family’s holdings and, at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, joined a minuteman unit in North Carolina. By 1775, Few had moved to Georgia to establish a law practice and was active in organizing military units across the state.

It was not long before he became active in state politics and, in the late 1770’s, was elected to the Georgia General Assembly. Few quickly advanced through the political ranks and held a number of high-level positions before being elected to serve as a delegate to the Congress of Confederation in 1780, where he was active in the debate on the Articles of Confederation. While a member of the Congress, Few was also selected to serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787.



William Pierce

Photo Courtesy of the Digital Library of Georgia

Few later reflected on his time serving in the Constitutional Convention in his memoirs by asserting the importance of compromise, “it was believed to be of the utmost importance, to concede to different opinions, so far as to endeavor to meet opposition on middle ground, and to form a Constitution that might preserve the union of the States. On that principle, of accommodation, the business progressed; and after about three months' arduous labor, a plan of Constitution was formed, on principles which did not altogether please any body; but it was agreed to be the most expedient, that could be devised.”



Georgia Historical Marker - Columbia County, GA  
Photo Courtesy of the Digital Library of Georgia



Following his time serving in the Constitutional Convention, Few was elected to the United States Senate to serve as one of Georgia's first two senators. When his term ended in 1793, he returned to the state legislature and, throughout his final years in politics, served as a federal judge and was a founding trustee member of the University of Georgia. In 1799, Few moved to New York and served in a variety of positions in the fields of law and banking, before once again entering politics to serve in the New York State Assembly and as a city alderman. At the age of 80 and after leading one of the most politically fascinating lives of many of our nation's founders, Few passed away in 1828 at his home in Fishkill-on-Hudson.



Marble Bust of Abraham Baldwin Located in the Georgia State Capitol Rotunda  
Photo Courtesy of the Georgia Senate Press Office

While many likely already know the stories of Baldwin and Few, Georgia sent two other delegates to the Constitutional Convention whose contributions are often overlooked. William Pierce arrived to the Constitutional Convention in May of 1787. Earlier in his life, he had served as an aide-de-camp to General Nathaniel Greene and participated in several battles throughout the Revolutionary War. In 1786, he was elected to serve as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives and represented Georgia at the Continental Congress. At the Constitutional

Convention, he became well-known for drafting character sketches depicting the personalities of many other delegates. For some, his characterizations were positive and drew out the finest attributes of the delegates. He described Gouverneur Morris (a delegate from New York and a member of the influential Committee on Style) as “one of those geniuses in whom every species of talents combine to render him conspicuous and flourishing in public debate...no man has more wit, nor can any one engage the attention more than Mr. Morris.” For others, he delivered some rather unflattering remarks. Roger Sherman from Delaware was described as “the oddest shaped character I ever remember to have met with. He is awkward, un-meaning, and unaccountably strange in his manner.”

Of his fellow Georgia delegates, Pierce was largely glowing. He wrote of Baldwin as a, “Gentleman of superior abilities, and joins in a public debate with great art and eloquence. Having laid the foundation of a complete classical education at Harvard College, he pursues every other study with ease. He is well acquainted with Books and Characters, and has an accommodating turn of mind, which enables him to gain the confidence of Men, and to understand them.” Of William Few, he was equally positive stating that, “Mr. Few possesses a strong natural Genius, and from application has acquired some knowledge of legal matters; — he practices at the bar of Georgia, and speaks tolerably well in the Legislature.”



While Pierce did not particularly distinguish himself at the Convention, he did occasionally make his voice heard during debate, specifically on issues that would provide for a strong centralized federal government, while still ensuring states had the proper amount of autonomy. Pierce was forced to leave the Convention early without being able to sign the Constitution due to operational issues with his business in Savannah. Just two years later, on December 10, 1789, Pierce died at the age of 49, with many debts after his business went bankrupt.

Another little known Georgia delegate was William Houston, the son of Sir Patrick Houston who served on the council under the royal government of Georgia. Houston held contrasting beliefs with his family, however, particularly on issues dealing with the rights of the colonists. While Houston was only present at the Constitutional Convention for a short time (roughly June 1 to July 23rd), he did participate in the same debate that brought Abraham Baldwin so much difficulty. On the question of equal representation in the Senate, Houston cast a vote in opposition to Baldwin’s “aye”, effectively splitting the Georgia delegation’s vote on the issue. Of Houston, William Pierce described, “ a gentleman of family...his person is striking...he has none the talents of a great orator, but in public debate is confused and irregular.” He did concede, however, that Houston was, “of good and honorable principles.”

Following his service in the Constitutional Convention, Abraham Baldwin was elected to serve as a United States Senator in 1799 by the Georgia Legislature, where he served as the President Pro Tempore from 1801 until 1802. Around this same time, Baldwin continued to be active in working with the legislature to charter a college, which would eventually become the University of Georgia. The college was designed after Yale College, which Baldwin had attended, and as a sign of respect to his alma mater, the bulldog was selected to be the University of Georgia's mascot, the same mascot as Yale. Baldwin continued to serve in the U.S. Senate until his death in 1807.

While Georgia only played a small role in establishing the U.S. Constitution, the votes cast by its delegates were instrumental in steering the debate at the Constitutional Convention towards a compromise that led to our three-branch structure today. The lives of Baldwin, Few, Pierce and Houston are forever enshrined in history as Founding Fathers of our nation and represent some of the greatest political minds Georgia has yet produced. On Constitution Day, we remember the role each man played and contemplate how the small notes in the margins of a document written over 150 years ago forever changed the course of American history.



The Constitutional Convention - Philadelphia, PA: Photo Courtesy of the National Constitution Center

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew Allison is a native of Coweta County, GA. He holds Bachelors Degrees in Journalism and Political Science from Georgia State University and has been with the Senate Press Office since 2016.





# 'AIM HIGH...FLY-FIGHT-WIN'

## A TRIBUTE TO ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE



By Rachel Moore, Communications Associate

It's late summer in September and the fall season is just right around the corner. You and your family are seated in lawn chairs along Georgia's longest aircraft runway in the heart of Middle Georgia patiently waiting to hear the roar of some of the fastest jets in the nation shooting across the sky at top speed. Thousands of people are clapping and cheering as the Star Spangled Banner echoes through the sky. The annual Robins Air Force Base (RAFB) Air Show is about to be underway. As a longstanding tradition of the City of Warner Robins and RAFB, the air show is an opportunity for service members, members of the community, and their families to relax and enjoy one of Georgia's most influential contributions to the armed forces, the Middle Georgia area, and most importantly, the nation as a whole. For over 80 years, RAFB has been serving the City of Warner Robins and surrounding Georgia communities, providing jobs, economic growth for the city and service to our United States Armed Forces. But before the air show and before its unwavered dedication to the Air Force, you might be wondering, how did RAFB come to be? And, how is it that after over 80 years, the base continues to hold the reputation as one of the most economically sound and profitable contributions to not only the city of Warner Robins but the entire state? It would be hard to come by a family or friend that has not had any association with someone who has provided service to Robins as the base has been a longstanding symbol of what the City of Warner Robins is today. While there is no doubt that over the course of eight decades, trials and tribulations were bound to arise. But despite challenges of wartime or any additional spontaneous circumstances, RAFB continues to persevere and provide the highest level of security and protection for Georgia and the United States.

Today, RAFB spans over fourteen million square feet of facility space. But, in 1941, you might be surprised to know that the groundwork began on a small dairy farm, just sixteen miles south of Macon, Georgia. Bordering the Ocmulgee River to the east and the small southern railroad stop of Wellston, Georgia, to the west, the then Warner Robins Army Air Depot (WRAAD), named in honor of Brigadier General Augustine Warner Robins, was constructed with the hopes of being beneficial for long-range efforts to prepare American defenses for unforeseen war. And unforeseen it was when just a few short months later, Japanese forces took action on the infamous Pearl Harbor, lighting the spark for what would be the biggest, deadliest, most grueling war between nations, a war known as none other than World War II.



Brigadier General Augustine Warner Robins  
Photo Courtesy of RAFB



The then 8,800 acre tract of land was quickly transformed into a fully functional army air depot and by August of 1942, the depot employed nearly twenty-five thousand, focusing heavily on repairing and resupplying nearly every aircraft in the Army Air Forces (AAF), ranging from the Douglas A-20 Havoc, an American medium bomber, attack aircraft, night intruder, fighter and reconnaissance aircraft to the infamous Boeing B-29 Superfortress, a four-engine propeller-driven heavy bomber designed for dual functionality of high altitude bombing in addition to low-flight precise night bombing. In addition to the maintenance of numerous warplanes of high variety, air depot personnel trained and dispatched over a quarter of a million supply and logistics field team members in every aspect of war. It was without doubt that contractors and developers planned the construction of the air depot just in the nick of time. Despite the harsh side effects of wartime, Middle Georgia's economic stability was thriving, so much so that the local citizenry



Douglas A-20 Havoc



Cockpit of the Douglas A-20 Havoc



Boeing B-29 Superfortress

was so enthusiastic that the Depot Commander, Col. Charles E. Thomas, agreed to hold dedication ceremonies for the WRAAD, despite instruction to hold parades and military celebrations to a minimum during wartime.

During the war, the air depot provided much needed jobs and infrastructure to the Warner Robins area. However, the same cannot be said following the surrender of European and Japanese forces with what was known as V-E Day. While celebrations and moments of joy echoed across the pond, the economy in Middle Georgia began to turn south.

Following the war, the number of military and civilian members employed at WRAAD dropped dramatically, barely totaling four thousand in the workforce. This cut was substantial for the air depot as many service members, civilians and their families began



to struggle to make ends meet. It seemed as though the Middle Georgia area was facing similar circumstances of its once wartime rival Germany. With the fall of the Nazi Party, Germany's economic stability was in tatters. Unable to acquire the necessary provisions and supplies to keep families overseas afloat, something had to be done. With the direction of President Truman, the air depot began to regain footing as the need for repairs and resupplying of aircraft utilized for the Berlin Airlift was in high demand. As a result, employment at the depot began to rise, nearly doubling to over ten thousand.



The last official flight of the Berlin Airlift  
Photo Courtesy of the Air Force Historical Support Division

Because many of the cargo aircraft used in the airlift were tied to a grueling schedule, parts soon began to give out, making way for WRAAD to do what it did best. Once again, parts and resupply became essential to maintaining the pace of the airlift. During the course of fifteen months, WRAAD sent numerous field teams and spare parts to Germany in addition to returning and refurbishing nearly twenty-thousand aircraft. Airlift efforts reached their peak in the spring of 1949 when a number of powerful leaders, including Congressman Carl Vinson (D-GA) and Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (D-TX) visited the air depot for several high-level meetings to continue to ramp up efforts to support Berlin. Thanks to efforts made by these notable men, Allied planes delivered an additional 12,940 tons of supplies over the course of 1,398 flights during a single 24-hour period in what was infamously known as the "Easter Parade."

It was safe to say that despite the harsh side effects of war between nations, WRAAD was making great strides to revamp economic development and infrastructure for the Warner Robins area despite the low employment numbers. This trend continued to pour over as tensions began to rise with the United States and communist ruled North Vietnam. Even though the workforce at WRAAD (now RAFB) was still significantly understaffed in comparison to the pilot stages of the base, employees made sure that the United Nations forces in the Far East had the necessary tools and supplies to defend our nation. It was no secret that the effects of the Vietnam War were long and costly. Divisive conflicts pitted the socialist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. Not to mention, the opposition of engaging in another long bout of grueling warfare left Americans bitterly divided. But trials and tribulations aside, RAFB did not waver in their dedication and service to the armed forces, as the top priority of the United States was to protect its ally. Following the rapid spread of communism that wreaked havoc on Europe in previous years, the United States had hoped to prevent the continued spread of communism to not only South Vietnam,





Martin B-57 Canberra  
Photo Courtesy of the National Museum of the USAF

but other neighboring Southeast Asian countries including Cambodia and Laos. As a result, RAFB personnel took immediate action to “de-cocoon” hundreds of “mothballed” B-29s that had been placed into storage on the base following WWII. This effort played an enormous role for the Armed Forces, giving troops overseas the necessary supplies and tools to help defend their ally in every capable way.

In addition, Armed Forces rolled out the Martin B-57 Canberra, a twin-engine tactical bomber and reconnaissance aircraft that held the distinction of being the first jet bomber used by the United States Air Force (USAF) to drop bombs during combat. Many B-57 aircraft and troops came from RAFB and were most predominantly used for night raids along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. What started as a small U.S. program to train the South Vietnamese army in 1961 quickly grew into a massive military effort in an attempt to combat the rise of communism. We can give much of our thanks and appreciation to officials and service members at RAFB and in 2016, the Georgia General Assembly did just that by paying their respects and gratitude to the fallen and veterans of the Vietnam War through the passage of House Resolution 1866, which honored Vietnam War veterans in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the commemoration of the Vietnam War.

For decades, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and Robins Air Force Base have supported some of the nation’s most vital Air Force weapon systems in the country. It is inevitable that over the course of eighty years, challenges have arisen but despite all that can be expected, RAFB continues to prevail. In 2007, the Georgia General Assembly recognized the year as The Year of Aviation through House Resolution 26, recognizing RAFB as “the home of one of the largest aircraft sustainment, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) centers in the world.” In

addition, HR 26 recognized the Museum of Aviation, located just outside the gates of base, as the second largest aviation museum in the United States Air Force and the fourth largest aviation museum in the United States. Georgia prides itself on being the



In 2019, the F-15A (picture above) became the signature aircraft of the Museum of Aviation  
Photo Courtesy of the Air Force Historical Support Division



best state in the nation in which to do business and to live, work, and raise a family. And, without Robins Air Force Base, much of the Middle Georgia area would not be nearly as economically sound or prosperous. Since the small town of Wellston turned to Warner Robins on September 1, 1942, the city has grown to 52,400 citizens with over 20,00 being employed by Robins Air Force Base. However, Warner Robins has not been the only beneficiary of the base's employment. The cities of Perry, Cochran, Fort Valley, Byron, Macon, Forsyth, Hawkinsville, Eastman, and other regional towns of Middle Georgia's 25 counties have also grown in size and experienced major growth in economic development as a result of Robins Air Force Base.

**TOP 10 EMPLOYERS IN WARNER ROBINS MSA**

Robins Air Force Base	24,500	Frito-Lay	1,512
Houston County BOE	5,500	Houston County Government	762
Perdue Farms	2,520	City of Warner Robins	648
Houston Healthcare	2,475	Fort Valley State University	617
Blue Bird Company	1,600	The Kroger Company	585

Photo Courtesy of the City of Warner Robins

The United States Air Force represents patriotism, dedication and honor for this great nation. As of January 1, 2020, over 300,000 Americans are employed as active duty members of the USAF. One of the Georgia General Assembly's own, **Senator Michael Rhett (D - Marietta)**

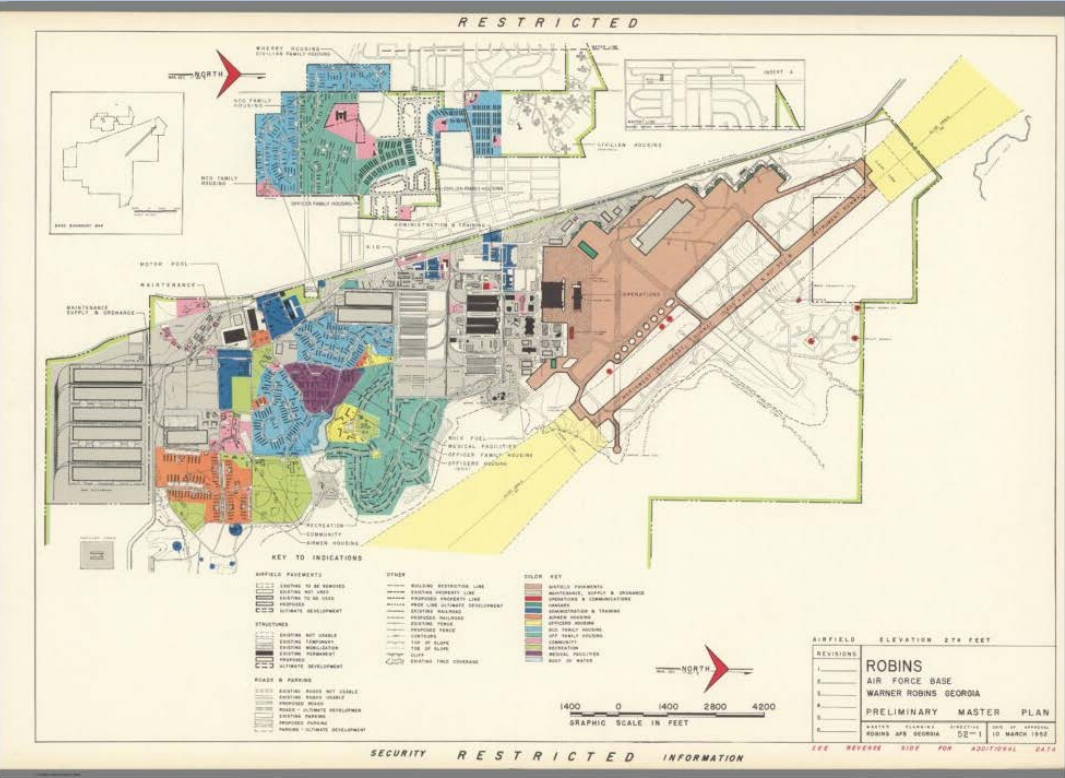
is a prime example of an exemplary Georgian who has served his nation with pride and honor as a longtime member of the USAF. Managing the personnel section for the Air Force Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (B-1 Bomber Jets, F-15 Fighter Jets, J-Stars Surveillance Planes, & C-130 Cargo Planes) and personnel for the C-130 Cargo planes pilot, navigator, flight engineer and cargo load master training school. Sen. Rhett was a supervisor training instructor teaching men and women aviators self-aid medical rescue care along with managing the Air Force Fitness & Health program for the base squadrons, Sen. Rhett knows first hand the level of dedication and commitment needed to serve the United States. Serving at the Aviano NATO Air Base Italy, Eielson Air Force Base Alaska, Eskişehir Air Base Turkey, Tinker Air Force Base Oklahoma, Keesler Air Force Base Mississippi, Lackland Air Force Base Texas, Robins Air Force Base Georgia, Dobbins Air Reserve Base Georgia, and Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. "In the Air Force I learned how to blend personal goals with organizational objectives. As a team we coordinated and researched our goals, then I empowered our



Sen. Michael Rhett (D - Marietta) United States Air Force



members to achieve their objectives while adhering to the proper checks and balances. During challenging times I provided a stabilizing influence. Regardless of the outcome, the buck stopped at my desk.”



The City of Warner Robins could not possibly be what it has become today without RAFB. As the driving force of the economy, the base represents infrastructure, community, commitment and nationalism for the United States. There is a strong connection between bases across Georgia and the adjacent communities found "beyond the gate." Vital infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, and water cost, are shared between towns and bases, and these

Blueprint Map of RAFB circa March 1952 Photo Courtesy of the New Georgia Encyclopedia communities often house many active-duty and civilian personnel who work on-base. Military members generate property and other tax revenue while living off base. These military installations contribute billions of dollars to the local economy and support thousands of jobs. “In Marietta, Georgia, the connection between Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Clay National Guard Headquarters, Navy & Marines Reserves, and Lockheed Aircraft Manufactures brings in Billions of dollars which impact the state of Georgia and the southeast region of the United States,” said Sen. Rhett. Enough cannot be said for what the USAF is and what it has done to support communities in Georgia like Warner Robins. After eighty years, RAFB continues to set the example for the highest level of patriotism for the United States Armed Forces.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

RACHEL MOORE

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Photo Courtesy of RAFB



# "Rockmart" on my Mind



In the early 1830's, the area was first settled as Van Wert, established by Welsh miners in 1838. The town quickly became the business center of Polk County and attracted the attention of a rail road line. Colonel Seaborn Jones, a wealthy land owner, built a railroad station just west of Van Wert, an area that would eventually become known as Rockmart.

The slate mined in Rockmart has been used as far away as London, England and was even used in the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Today, Rockmart is celebrated as a historic and vibrant city in Polk County.

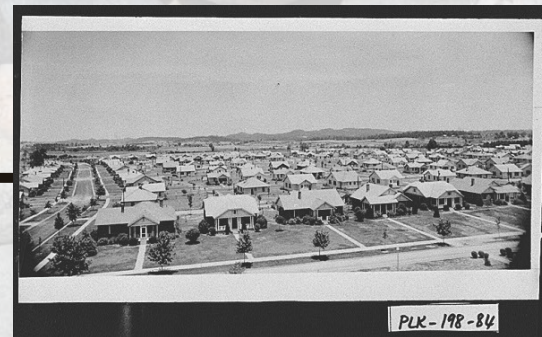


Early Days in Rockmart

On August 26, 1872, the City of Rock Mart was officially chartered, with Charles Taylor Parker acting as its first mayor.

The Goodyear Clearwater Mill opens, growing Rockmart's population from 1,400 in 1920, to 3,264 in 1930.

The City officially changes its name from Rock Mart to Rockmart



2022

1880

1926

1930

1872

1924

Estimated year Rock Mart's slate quarries were opened.



The passenger trains Royal Palm and Ponce de Leon collided in Rockmart during a rainstorm, with confusion over which train was to take the siding. The accident resulted in 19 passengers killed and more than 50 injured.

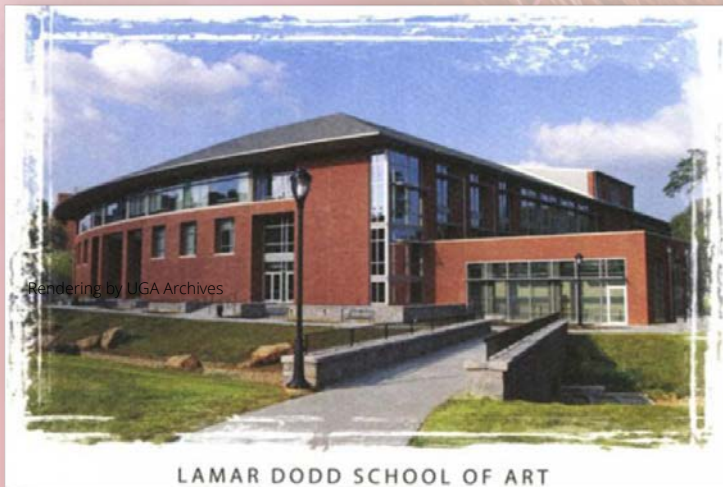
Rockmart Celebrates its 150th Anniversary





## SEPTEMBER IN GEORGIA HISTORY

Born September 22, 1909 in Fairburn, GA, artist Lamar Dodd quickly became a phenom in the art community, enrolling in art classes at Lagrange Female College at the age of 11. In the 1930's Dodd rose to prominence and was offered a position as artist in residence at The University of Georgia.



Dodd, Lamar. *Wolf Fork Valley*. 1941



Known for his wide range of styles and subjects, Dodd painted everything from the mountains of Georgia to human hearts, to the Apollo 11 moon landing for NASA. A staunch advocate for the arts, the art program at UGA obtained a reputation for being one of the best in the country with the University naming the art school after him in 1996. Lamar Dodd passed away one day shy of his 88th birthday on September 21, 1996

The 133 year history of Agnes Scott University is one filled with tradition, innovation, and community. Founded on September 24th, 1889, this prestigious university sits just outside the heart of Atlanta in Decatur. With an undergraduate class of only 1,019 students, this liberal arts college is one of the smallest and oldest colleges in Georgia.

Photo by Agnes Scott College



Featuring its scrappie mascot Scottie, the Scottish Terrier, Agnes Scott boasts a strong athletics program lead by its tennis team that has advanced to the NCAA national tournament six times. One of its most treasured traditions is the ringing of the famous Agnes Scott Hall bell tower upon receiving a job offer. Priding itself on developing character as well as knowledge, the university makes new students sign an honor code and recite a pledge promising to uphold the academic and social standards of the institution. Notable alumni include Grammy award winning country artist Jennifer Nettles of the band Sugarland and Marsha Norman, a Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner.



The founding of our nation is couched in a peculiar kind of political philosophy. In our nation's founding documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, we are introduced to this idea that we are all entitled to, in some form or another, liberty. We are all too familiar with the line in the Preamble that "secures the Blessings of Liberty" and the immortal "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" line in the Declaration. While we were all introduced to this concept so enshrined in our founding documents, what exactly *is* liberty?

The very concept appears simple at first. However, when you get down to the nitty gritty of what liberty actually *means*, you will find that there are a great many ways to actually define it. Webster's gives it a good shot, albeit an all-encompassing and rather vague one. The entry for "Liberty" defines the term as follows: "the quality or state of being free; the power to do as one pleases; freedom from physical restraint; freedom from arbitrary or despotic control; the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges; the power of choice." That is all rather good sounding, but, there are those who wish to push this definition further.

Edmund Burke, largely attributed as the father of conservatism, had a unique idea of liberty. The way Burke saw it, liberty was not held by the individual, but was more of a social freedom guaranteed by the state. In Burke's world, strong centralized institutions would be responsible for enforcing not the concept that every person is free to do as they like (as Webster's states) but, instead, characterized the concept as the "state of things in which liberty is secured by the equality of restraint." Essentially, liberty is all people being equal, yet restrained, at least to some degree, by the state.

This is in direct opposition to what many of us learned, or perhaps inferred, as children when we took our first steps towards understanding what the Constitution meant. We were early on indoctrinated with the idea that we are all endowed with liberty and, with it, were free to write, speak, pray, and vote how we see fit. This Burkeian notion of liberty leaves me, for one, wanting.

In opposition to Burke, 19th Century philisophe John Stewart Mill outlined his own version of liberty. Mill was a progressive. At least for his time. To Mill, liberty was personal. It was, as Burke put it, "selfish". He held the belief that the so called "social liberty" was misnamed and was diametrically opposed to the very idea of natural freedom. For Mill, liberty was the belief that we are, indeed, free to do as we please, but like Burke, Mill, too, placed his limits on liberty. For Mill, the obligation of the state to interfere with your liberty would only come into play in order to prevent harm to others. This concept of "utilitarianism" may be a bit much to introduce in this column. But, is it not the premise that the United States is and forever shall be a place where your freedom to express your opinions, values, criticisms, or compliments shall not be curtailed by the federal government? Ought not our values as a country be placed in a philosophy that promotes not how *much* the state should interfere in our day to day lives, but rather, how *little* the state should interfere. Put *that* in a Schoolhouse Rock song.

On Constitution Day, it is vitally important that we not only remember our founding documents for what they were, but for what they mean. And how a single word can mean so many different things to so many different people.

Pop quiz: when is the nation's birthday?

If, dear reader, you answered "Independence Day" (or "the Fourth of July"), you are wrong, but don't kick yourself. The correct answer, to the extent that there is an answer at all, is Constitution Day, celebrated by (almost no one except the Federalist Society) every year, on September 17. Remember, remember, the seventeenth of September... or something. Ratification of the federal constitution was in turn ratification of the United States as the country which currently exists today, although I would argue that not all constitutions are substratum (as a famous New Englander once said) and certain subsequent events have multiple times ushered in a new country.

The thing is, there really is no birthday for the nation because there was no birth of our nation. Other writers before me have pointed out that 1776 was not a revolution so much as a revolution prevented (Russell Kirk, most famously perhaps) and that the people who met in Philadelphia in 1776 were largely concerned with preserving their rights as Englishmen, not so much creating, by whole cloth, a new bunch of a priori ideas (M.E. Bradford, for one). There is a whole instrument to the Declaration of Independence; it is not just that second sentence.

This brings us to Edmund Burke, the writer and philosopher who best encapsulates the United States' origins. He was the largest influence on Kirk and Bradford, supra, who both understood that the Constitution of the United States is not, as George Will has written, an apple of gold framed by the silver picture of the Declaration. It is a reduction to writing of a certain (English) society, which Burke knew to be a "partnership of the dead, the living and the unborn." This was why Burke so easily saw a distinction between our so-called revolution and the one across the channel in 1789. One was an upheaval. The other was a lesson in continuity.

I never learned about Burke in high school. Got plenty of Locke. Plenty of Mill. Plenty of Jefferson. Locke believed in some Santa Clause theory about freely situated men contracting together; Mill, as a liberal of the Benthamite calculus, is considered by many to be the preeminent philosopher of the nineteenth century and has had a great deal of influence on free speech First Amendment theory. Jefferson wasn't around for the Constitutional Convention, but everybody acts like he is the Daddy Rabbit, as a friend of mine likes to say, when it comes to interpreting our federal religion clauses. Civics, Social Studies, Con Law, Jurisprudence... Can't recall ever learning about Burke except on my own.

Burke, as an economist, a philosopher, and a statesman, is separated from the foregoing men by something called prescription. He was a studier of the classic philosophers. Freely situated men, he knew, didn't contract to form laws; political animals carved out laws from trial and error over time. Law was as much about authority as it was the rights of man, and in fact the rights of man were unimportant to him if they undermined civilized man, which is what laws are designed to cultivate, which is also why utilitarian theory seemed to him an evil, the ad absurdum of which is always an egalitarian levelling.

Constitution Day is a day to remember that the governing instrument of this nation owes as much to Magna Carta as it does to the Declaration, if not more; it is therefore a day to also remember the lessons of Burke, not the radicals with whom we tend to occupy our school children. Happy Constitution Day.



# ISN'T IT TRUE?

## That the chicken can't cross the road?

### A collection of *unique* laws in Georgia

Don't even think about not milking an impounded cow. The next time you want to jump off a llama, you better reconsider. And yes it is, in fact, illegal, to let your chicken cross the road in Quitman County, Georgia. So consider yourself warned before you even attempt to commit these heinous acts.

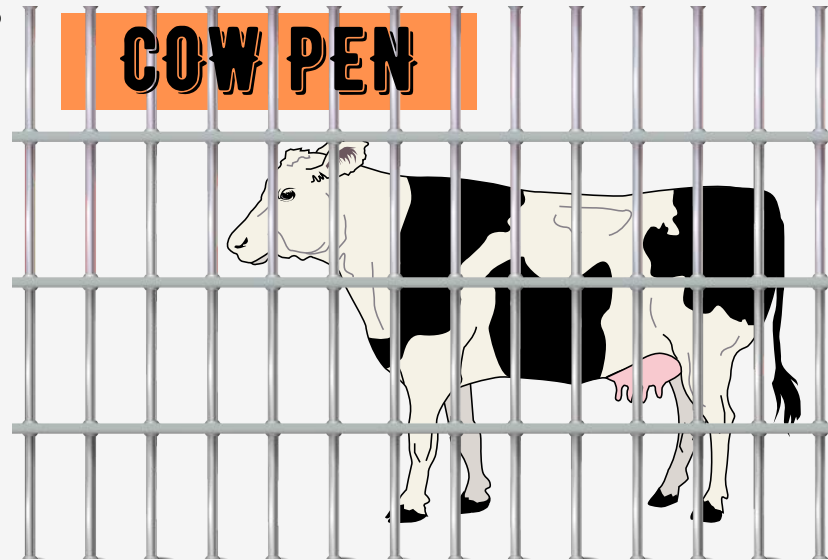
When was the last time your cow was impounded? If you're like me, the answer is probably never.

However, this city boy does not speak for all. Go a little farther south and you will find yourself in the heart of Georgia with miles of beautiful farmland. Every now and then Ol' Bessie wanders out of her pasture and ends up somewhere she shouldn't be.

Now I know what you're thinking, don't cows wear bells? Yes they do because their horns don't work.

However, law dictates that if the owner of said animal cannot be contacted then the local sheriff can impound the dairy queen. This can cause some stress for farmers because farm animals

have to be tended to quite often and quite well. Fortunately, back in 2011, the General Assembly passed a law requiring the sheriff's office to make sure there is proper care provided for the impounded livestock.



### GEORGIA CODE TITLE 4. ANIMALS § 4-3-9

**(a) It shall be the duty of any person impounding an animal under Code Section 4-11-9.2 to make reasonable and proper arrangements to provide the impounded animal with humane care and adequate and necessary veterinary services.**

If that's not southern hospitality, then I don't know what is. Your cow, goat, or even llama will be pet, fed, and given medicine if needed. An udderly amazing law if you ask me.

Don't let your chicken cross the road. But it makes sense when you think about it, chickens running about is a safety hazard. These birds of a feather who flock together are known for their exuberant defecation and no one wants that in a public place.



## QUITMAN CODE OF ORDINANCES § 8-1 STATES:

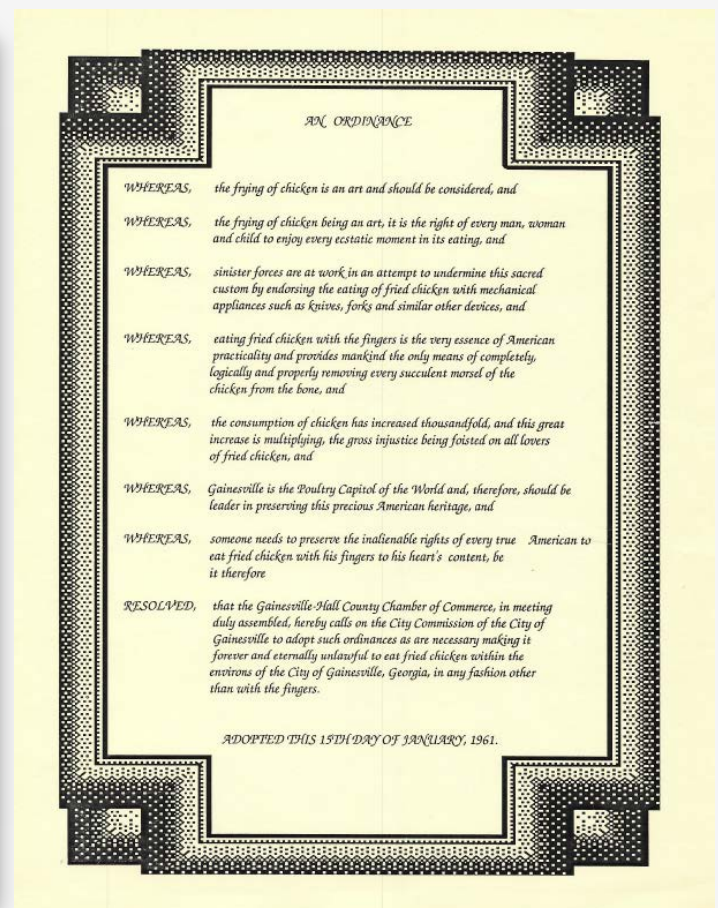
**It shall be unlawful for any person owning or controlling chickens, ducks, geese or any other domestic fowl to allow the same to run at large upon the streets or alleys of the city or to be upon the premises of any other person, without the consent of such other person.**

The intent is to also prevent property damage caused by these feathery fowls, and dogs chasing after them in the streets causing a panic. Pretty straight forward at the end of the day, just who knew it was actually illegal for the chicken to cross the road?

Llamas. Apparently they're so dangerous that the Georgia General Assembly went out of their way to write a law about them. They did not simply lump them in with other equine animals, they made it a point to address the "Llama activities"

**(CODE 1981, § 4-12-1, ENACTED BY GA L. 1991, P. 680, § 1 AND GA L. 1995, P. 335, § 1.)**

**The General Assembly recognizes that persons who participate in equine activities or llama activities may incur injuries as a result of the risks involved in such activities. The General Assembly also finds that the state and its citizens derive numerous economic and personal benefits from such activities. The General Assembly finds, determines, and declares that this chapter is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. It is, therefore, the intent of the General Assembly to encourage equine activities and llama activities by limiting the civil liability of those involved in such activities**



It goes on to list a plethora of llama activities and how anyone who chooses to participate in such activities is responsible for any injuries sustained and as long as all the safety measures and protocols are met, the "llama activity sponsor" cannot be held liable. Fun fact, there are places in Georgia where you can pay a llama professional to be a guide on a hike with llamas. So while your chances of getting hurt while around a llama are slim, it is clearly not impossible. Maybe there was a spike in llama injuries in 1995, or too many people got spit on, or someone's groove got thrown off. Regardless folks, safety first on those llamas.

And last but not least, there is an ordinance in "The Poultry Capitol of the World", Gainesville, stating that a person cannot eat fried chicken with utensils, it must be eaten with their hands.....I shall refer to the gentleman from the 49th district on that one.



# EVENTS UNDER THE GOLD DOME

*Each month, the Capitol hosts a wide range of events. Here are snapshots of a few events that took place this month*



## DAN CATHY VISITS

Dan Cathy, Chairman of the Board and former CEO of Chick-fil-a, was recognized with Senate Resolution 866, sponsored by **Sen. Steve Gooch (R - Dahlonge)** and presented with **Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan**.



## PROJECT UPSTREAM



On August 3rd, members of **Project Upstream** visited the Georgia Capitol, hosted by **Sen. Kim Jackson (D - Stone Mountain)**. Project Upstream is a civic engagement group composed of members who have experienced homelessness firsthand and was initiated by The Church of the Common Ground, a building-free church who seeks to give hope to homeless and low-income Georgians in need.

## STUDY COMMITTEES MEET

The **Senate Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness** brought leaders of nonprofits and career experts on the study of homelessness to speak before a panel of legislators, some of whom testified and some of who shared stories of previous homelessness experiences themselves.

**Majority Leader Mike Dugan (R - Carrollton)** held the first meeting of the Senate Study Committee to Review Education Funding Mechanisms, which focused its first meeting on gathering initial input from the Georgia Department of Education, the Southern Regional Education Board and the Education Commission of the states to determine how Georgia compares to other states in how public education systems are funded.

The Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation convened to hear from the Georgia Department of Transportation and other relevant stakeholders on how to take the first steps to grow Georgia's electronic vehicle infrastructure. Co-Chairman **Sen. Steve Gooch (R - Dahlonge)** and **Rep. Rick Jasperse (R - Jasper)** plan to hold additional hearings across the state to learn what specific communities require to improve access to electric vehicles.

The Senate Study Committee on Technology, History and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, chaired by **Sen. Sonya Halpern (D - Atlanta)**, held its first meeting and heard from a variety of educators and subject matter experts on the impact of HBCUs in Georgia.

Also meeting was the Senate Study Committee on Economic Development and International Relations, Chaired by **President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R - Gainesville)**; the Senate Study Committee on Development Authorities and Downtown Development Authorities, **Chaired by Sen. Max Burns (R - Sylvania)**, the Senate Study Committee on Food Delivery Apps, Chaired by **Sen. Elena Parent (D - Atlanta)**; and the Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Plan Access. Co-Chaired by **Sen. John Albers (R - Roswell)** and **Sen. Sally Harrell (D - Atlanta)**.





# EVENTS UNDER THE GOLD DOME

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## JOINT AG SUMMIT HELD IN PERRY

On August 30, **Sen. Larry Walker (R - Perry)** and **Rep. Robert Dickey (R - Musella)** held the annual Joint Agriculture Issues Summit at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry. Issues discussed included an update on the Georgia Fairgrounds, a water policy and infrastructure funding, integrated precision agriculture and a rural Georgia and agriculture economic outlook.



## REMEMBERING FIRST LADY SANDRA DEAL

On August 23, 2022, Georgia lost its former **First Lady Sandra Deal**, after a battle with breast cancer.



On January 10, 2011, Sandra Deal became the First Lady of Georgia after her husband, Nathan Deal, was elected as Governor.

Sandra Deal was born and raised in Gainesville, Georgia and attended Georgia College and State University. After receiving her degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, she taught at Georgia's public schools for over 15 years.

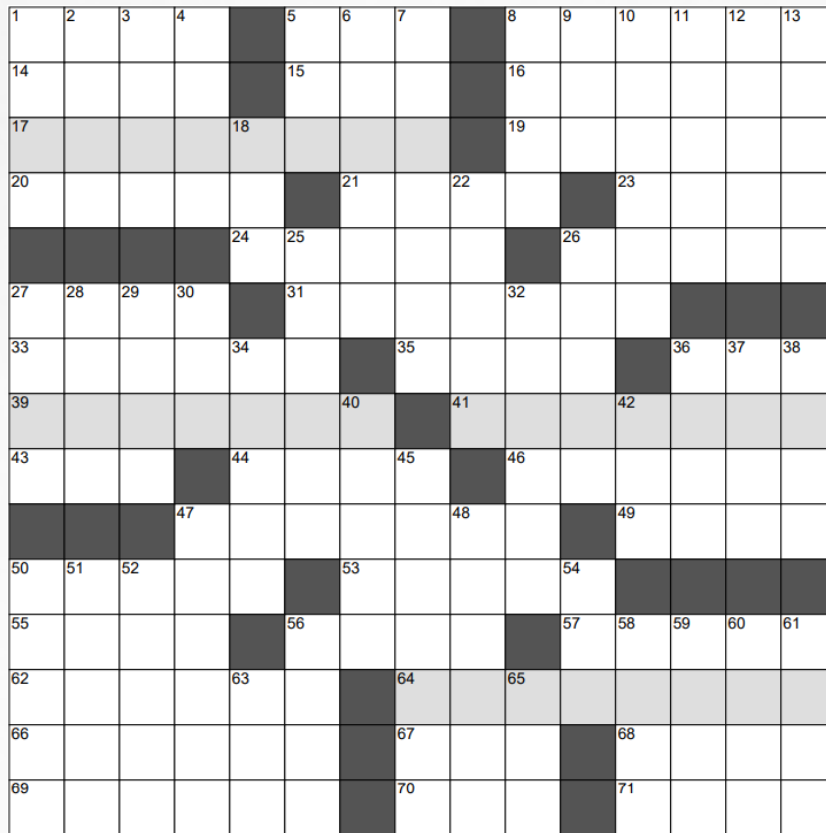


First Lady Sandra Deal was a exceptional woman and a devoted public servant. She dedicated her life to serving the people of Georgia, particularly Georgia's students, with kindness and compassion. She will be dearly missed.



# CROSSWORD: Fall Calls

Constructed by Lexi Juliani



## ACROSS:

- 1 Admin. aide  
5 Fannie \_\_  
8 "Believe it or not..."  
14 Radius neighbor  
15 Tin Man's need  
16 Fume  
17 \*Causing to stumble  
19 Virgilian hero  
20 "Bone" prefix  
21 Hill, of the Dawgs and the Bengals  
23 Just \_\_ (Nike)  
24 Relieved  
26 Loggins or Rogers  
27 "Hurry up!"  
31 Reward for being close?  
33 Overseas  
35 Texter's "Then again..."  
36 Espionage org.  
39 \*Abbr. for when a player beyond the line of scrimmage hinders a player's catch opportunity

- 41 \*Penalty assessed for too-long hugs?  
43 That, in Toledo  
44 Gloom and \_\_  
46 Baby's footwear  
47 Did major editing  
49 Obtains  
50 Hamlet's countrymen  
53 Sound from a nest  
55 "... \_\_ saw Elba"  
56 Voucher  
57 First name in cosmetics  
62 Slowly, in music  
64 \*Tackle low and behind, might get you a 1-Down First Down  
66 Root vegetable  
67 \_\_ Arann (Irish carrier)  
68 Aware of  
69 Actress Harrison, aka Laramie of Yellowstone  
70 Code-cracking org.  
71 Exam

## DOWN:

- 1 Prefix for -nomic, -matic  
2 Certain cameras, for short  
3 Tizzy  
4 Record  
5 French pronoun  
6 "Say it \_\_, Joe!"  
7 "View of Toledo" painter  
8 "By Jove!"  
9 Maiden name preceder  
10 Guitar choice for Hendrix  
11 Used as a dining table  
12 \_\_-link fence  
13 Irritable  
18 "The Raven" poet  
22 Writer Wharton  
25 "\_\_ a word from our sponsor"  
26 Painter Frida  
27 Superhero accessory  
28 Degs. held by many CEOs  
29 Approximately  
30 Refusals  
32 Peanut, in the South  
34 Helpers  
36 Give as an example  
37 "What's \_\_ for me?"  
38 Matures  
40 Olympic symbol  
42 "Man's best friend"  
45 Daniel Day-Lewis played one in 1992  
47 Rules  
48 Lady and Lord, e.g.  
50 One of Franklin's two certainties  
51 "Per \_\_ ad astra"  
52 Approaches  
54 Zing  
56 Deal (with)  
58 Catch a glimpse of

- 59 Fork feature  
60 Tolkien tree creatures  
61 Show business Grand Slam abbr.  
63 Three, to Caesar  
65 George's brother

Scan the QR code below to solve the puzzle virtually on Crosshare:



## ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTOR

Lexi Juliani hails from Marietta, GA, but currently calls Cherokee County home. She has a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Reinhardt University, and has been with the Senate Press Office since 2021. Lexi developed a love for the NYT Crossword during her time on "Crew" in the Secretary of the Senate's Office during the 2021 Legislative Session.



## THE HOPPER

### Upcoming Events

- **September 7, 2022** - Georgia Joint Music Heritage Study Committee
  - Capricorn Recording Studio, Macon, GA @ 10:30 a.m.
- **September 13, 2022** - Senate Study Committee on the Creation of a Georgia Cybersecurity Force
  - Ga Tech - Dalney St. Research Admin Building @ 9:00 a.m.
- **September 14, 2022** - Joint Senate and House Judiciary Committee
  - 341 CAP @ 2:00 p.m.
- **September 15, 2022** - Senate Retirement Subcommittee
  - 310 CLOB @ 8:00 a.m.
- **September 22, 2022** - Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Subcommittee
  - 307 CLOB @ 10:00 a.m.